

October 17, 2016

Weekly Report

Highlight of Departmental Activities

The Weekly Report showcases the activities and accomplishments of the many Departments within Rutherford County Government. Click on the directory lists, headings and text in blue to be linked to more information.

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Airport

Director Randy Patterson is a member of the Civil Air Patrol. This week, he was deployed to the eastern part of NC to aid in the disaster relief.

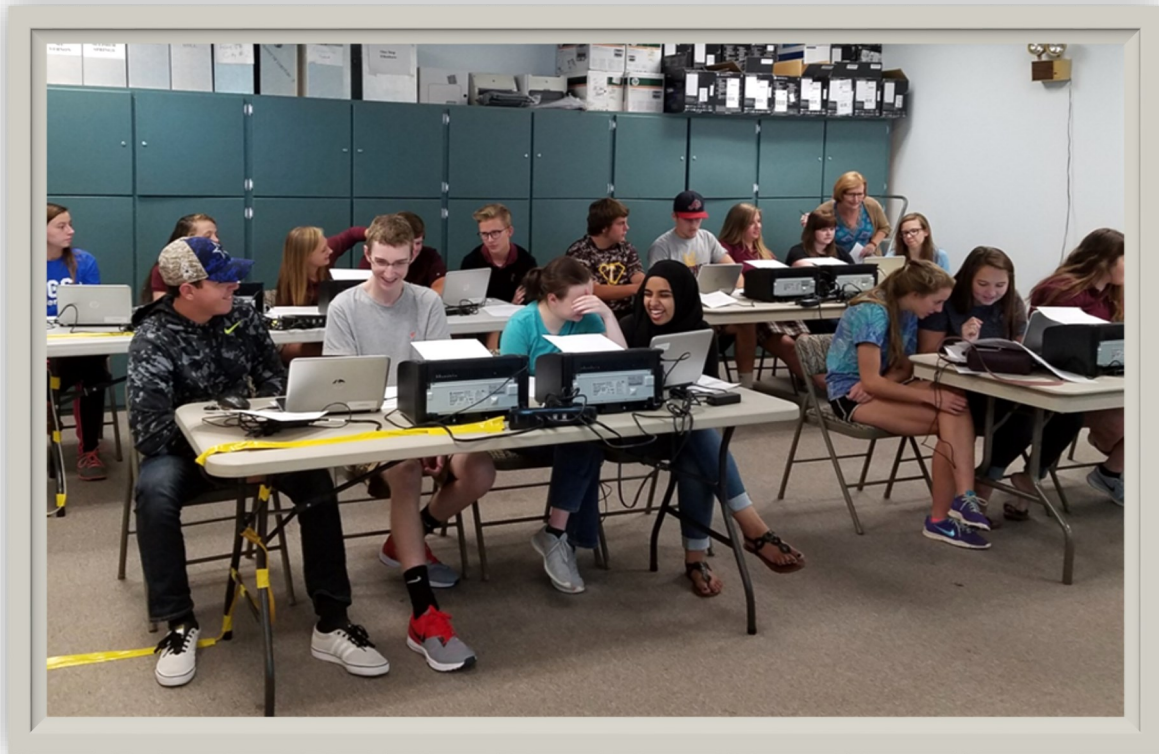


Thank you, Randy, for your service to these catastrophic areas.



Board of Elections

The past two weeks our office has concentrated on training poll workers. We have held six classes. The registration deadline to vote at the polls is Friday, October 14th and forms must be received in our office by 5:00 p.m. that day or received by mail by the following Wednesday, October 19th. During the month of September, our office processed 325 new registrations, 2904 changes of information and mailed out 613 absentee ballots. **Pictured below is class for student workers.**



Cooperative Extension

Staff reporting....

Jeff Bradley, Tracy Davis, Cynthia Robbins, Hannah Bundy

- Submitted monthly news column to Daily Courier.
- Chaired Partnership For Children board meeting.
- Attended Community Health Council meeting.
- Conducted monthly radio program.
- Conducting nutrition program at county library.
- Took entries to the NC State Fair for 4-H Competition.
- Attended a Town Hall meeting at the former Swannanoa 4-H Camp.
- Planning Speedway to Healthy exhibit for 4-H grade.

Rutherford County Master Gardeners Association has been awarded the Search for Excellence award for our district and will be accepting the award at the WNC Master Gardener Symposium this week

County Manager and Commissioners

The following are several events and activities in which the County Manager, Commissioners and staff were involved over the last few days:

- Meetings with several departments including Projects and Planning, Solid Waste, Building Inspections, Information Technology, and EDC
- TDA board meeting
- Meet the Candidates Forum
- Economic Development meeting
- Rails to Trail meeting
- Health Department meeting
- Rutherford County CTP meeting
- ICC Construction meeting
- IPDC Summit Mayors and Chairman follow-up meeting
- Community Partner Meeting with Smoky Mt MCO - also, announcing name change to Vaya Health
- Meeting with County Attorney
- CM @ Risk RFQ Review
- DHHS (Dept. of Health and Human Services) webinar with County Manager and DSS

Events that took place this past week were Lake Lure Town Council meeting and Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner. Other activities and events were meetings with citizens, numerous calls, interoffice meetings, conference calls, public relations, advising, and preparation for various responsibilities.

Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department responded to an Industrial RFI and held various meetings to further address the possibility of transforming into a public-private partnership. Staff continues to be busy attending numerous meetings with county departments and industry allies, following up with multiple industrial recruitment and expansion prospects, communicating with the Department of Commerce and industry representatives regarding various grant reports and requests, and updating building and site information on AccessNC. This week's agenda also included watching EDPNC's 2017 Cooperative Marketing Program Webinar. ** Please note the regularly scheduled monthly Rutherford County Economic Development Commission board meeting for Wednesday, October 19th, 2016 has been cancelled.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirement. The Director met with the Workers Compensation auditor this week. The HR Specialist conducted the monthly orientation. Welcome new hires Kim Bailey (DSS), Christin Varnes (DSS), Tammy Gregory (DSS), Sarah Rome (DSS), Ashley Thompson (DSS), Jeff Smith (Sheriff), Monica Cochran (Revenue), and MaryAnn White (Revenue). Employees who have left the service of Rutherford County are Apryl Tessener (Finance). The HR Specialist has started the tedious task of providing 1094 and 1095 information to the State. The State Health Plan enrollment kicked off October 1. Employees need to login to www.shpnc.org to complete their 2017 enrollment process.

Rutherford-Polk-McDowell Health Department

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) Programs across the state are donating supplies to those affected by Hurricane Matthew in Robeson County, NC. Our NFP group at the RPM Health District donated supplies including diapers, wipes, and blankets which will be delivered to a shelter in Lumberton, NC.



**JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST
BREAST & CERVICAL CANCER**

**EARLY DETECTION
IS YOUR BEST PROTECTION!!**

ALL WOMEN
are encouraged to have regular screenings for breast and cervical cancers. Inquire with the Rutherford Health Department today to see if you're eligible for a **FREE** or low-cost breast and cervical cancer screening through one of our Women's Health Programs or our BCCCP Program.
828-287-6100



RUTHERFORD-POLK-McDOWELL

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the RPM Health District is encouraging **ALL** women to take responsibility for their breast health and are urging them to have their screening mammogram performed.

Mammography is the best available method to detect breast cancer in its earliest, most treatable stage—an average of one to three years before a woman can feel a lump. Mammography also identifies cancers too small to be felt during a clinical breast examination.

Breast Cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths for women in North Carolina. Each year over 6,000 North Carolina women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and over 1,000 will die from the disease. As we know, early detection is any woman's best protection against cancer!

There is no better time than October, during National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, for women to talk with their health care providers about maintaining their breast health and seeking mammography.

For more information call 828.287.6100.

Information Technology

Traffic Summary - BarracudaSF.rutherfordcountync.gov [172.16.10.29]

From 2016-10-03 00:00:00

To 2016-10-09 23:59:00

Inbound Traffic

Day	Rate Controlled	Blocked: Bad Recipient	Blocked: Spam	Blocked: Virus	Quarantined	Allowed: Tagged	Allowed	Total Received
2016-10-03	0	195	632	20	57	12	3789	4705
2016-10-04	62	236	778	17	67	8	4152	5320
2016-10-05	40	206	709	33	95	9	3980	5072
2016-10-06	70	221	658	32	45	17	3293	4336
2016-10-07	223	221	591	11	52	27	3393	4518
2016-10-08	0	71	464	7	15	12	1208	1777
2016-10-09	680	248	497	5	9	7	1029	2475
Total	1075	1398	4329	125	340	92	20844	26203

Outbound Traffic

Day	Rate Controlled	Blocked: Policy	Blocked: Spam	Blocked: Virus	Quarantined	Sent	Encrypted	Redirected	Authentication Failure	Total Received
2016-10-03	9	0	31	0	0	1140	5	0	297	1482
2016-10-04	9	0	30	0	0	1347	5	0	393	1784
2016-10-05	110	0	1	0	0	1214	1	0	111	1437
2016-10-06	202	0	31	0	0	1298	6	0	389	1926
2016-10-07	51	0	0	0	0	965	5	0	309	1330
2016-10-08	9	0	3	0	0	427	0	0	79	518
2016-10-09	9	0	30	0	0	453	0	0	531	1023
Total	399	0	125	0	0	6844	22	0	2109	9500

Revenue Department

The new GIS site is a big hit, and according to our numbers, we have had over 60,000 visits since going live with the new site. If you have a problem with the new site, feel free to contact our office at 287-6000 and select GIS section.

Our two new employees have completed orientation this week and doing a great job adjusting to all the fast moving parts of the Revenue Department.

Please continue to remember our sister counties on the coast with the major damage that Hurricane Matthew left behind. Their office staff will be busy with the damage assessments for some time.

Customer Service	Totals
Phone Calls	278
Information Data Requests	4
Website Hits	3,297
County Growth Indicators	
Building Permits Reviewed	84
Deeds Recorded	73
Collections Progress	
Deeds Certified/Prior Year Taxes	32
Total Taxes Collected	\$214,383.22

Senior Center

The Senior Center hosted the monthly blood pressure clinic on Monday. Representatives from White Oak of Rutherfordton conducted the Senior Center's monthly blood pressure checks. Forty clients took advantage of this service. Jane Armstrong spoke on Tuesday about "De-Cluttering-How Do I Motivate Myself to Change". The Director was also a panel participant at the Leadership Rutherford class on Tuesday, which focused on quality of life and what the Senior Center brings to Rutherford County. The Senior Shiners traveled to Life Care Adult Day Care on Wednesday to entertain their participants with song and dance. Our seniors also enjoyed craft time on Wednesday making a fall bracelet. On Thursday, a group of seniors went on a "Mystery Trip". The only information they were given ahead of time was the departure time. Also, our Square Dancing class is back on Thursday's at 4:00 p.m. Lastly, on Friday Cassidy Upton did a presentation on the benefits of swimming and aquatics for senior adults as part of her high school senior project. She discussed how swimming/aquatics strengthen a person's muscles and increases their quality of life. The Senior Center was also awarded a \$50,000 grant from the RHI Legacy Foundation to be used for home delivered meals during 2017.

Upcoming:

- Zumba October 24 6:00 p.m.
- Annual Health & Wellness Fair October 27 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Soil & Water

The Admin/Education Specialist:

- attended NC Soil & Water Area 1 Fall Meeting and Education meeting in Fletcher.
- worked on Field day school registrations, station schedule, and school and presenter instructions.
- worked on Pay and Class questionnaire.
- worked on District minutes and Meeting Notices.

The Ag. Cost Share Technician:

- attended NC Soil & Water Area 1 Fall Meeting in Fletcher.
- field day preparations
- worked on Pay and Class questionnaire .
- Farm Planning

Solid Waste

Customers served 392

Loads hauled from convenience centers 55

MSW loads shipped to Lenoir 39

Recycling loads shipped to Conover 4

Tire customers 32

The director's week consisted of individual meetings with several employees, meeting on recycling with Henderson County, meeting with County Manager on the vehicle equipment replacement plan and field-ed several visits from vendors.

The office staff has been busy helping customers while continuing to work on reports and billing. The transfer station staff continues to process all the MSW and recycling tonnages that are coming in. The C&D staff has been busy with the tonnages coming in while hauling dirt for cover. The shop staff has been busy working on vehicles, equipment and performing preventative maintenance. The airport staff has been busy finishing up the central landfill while continuing to take care of the airport.

Employees are working on their health insurance open enrollment and the pay class study. Also staff has been preparing a presentation that will be presented next week at the SWANA conference.

Please continue to recycle!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

EMS Management held their monthly staff meeting with a key emphasis this month on internal emergency procedures. A couple scenarios were used to help determine weaknesses that could be addressed through updated procedures. EMS is also in the process of having all full time employees sent for their annual physical which is part of the overall "Fit for Duty" program at EMS.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK
Emergency Calls	146
Non-Emergency Calls	31

Transit Services:

Transit held their monthly staff meeting. Staff discussed the results of our first quarter scorecard report on our 2016-2017 Success Plan. Each goal in our Success Plan was discussed along with the two or three tactics used to achieve the desired results for each goal. Each staff member has been assigned and each have accepted ownership to assure the quarterly tactics needed to accomplish our goals are completed. How well we are meeting our quarterly goals is measured in a quarterly performance scorecard that is reported to NCDOT with the performance metrics used for each tactic. Staff will report any roadblocks quarterly that prevented them from completing a tactic along with actions or solutions to correct issues. Installation of cameras and tablet along with lettering have been completed on newest Transit van. Once radio is installed it will be ready for revenue service. We are still awaiting delivery of our last two vans for this year. Congratulations to Transit for receiving a \$25,000 grant from the RHI Legacy Foundation to provide transportation to citizens that are unable to get to medical appointments and to food pantries and grocery stores.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	10,314	9,604
# of Local Trips	1,186	1,153
# of Out of County Trips	71	58
# Unduplicated Passengers	238	238
Total Revenue	\$20,822	\$18,038

Veteran Services

Mail In	105
Mail Out	25
Fax	173
Phone Calls In/Out	64
Veteran Contacts	145

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Thursday, October 20th, and every third Thursday in the month from 9:00 until 10:30 a.m., a coffee social is planned for veterans.....serving up coffee, treats, conversation and a good time! Smith's Drugs of Forest City will be our guest in October, offering flu/pneumonia shots and free blood pressure checks. Please bring your Medicare and/or insurance cards for flu/pneumonia shots. There will no out-of-pocket expense with most insurances. This offer also extends to spouses and children over 14.



The event will be held at the Rutherford County Veteran Service Office, located at 303 Fairground Road, Spindale, NC, hosted by the staff and co-hosted by American Legion Women's Auxiliary. If you have a topic of interest and would like to participate, contact Beverly at 828-287-6185

Donuts provided by Davis Donuts and Food Lion of Rutherfordton and coffee by Burger King and American Legion Post 74



County News



Naturalist Niche Series: Fall Ridge

Hike

Saturday, Oct. 22nd

8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Chimney Rock State Park

Follow an expert naturalist hiker through trails of beautiful fall colors.



4th Friday's on Main

Friday, Oct. 28th

6:00 - 9:00 pm

Main Street, Forest City

Live music, street vendors & kids activities!

get the

SKINNY on the PENNY



On the ballot November 8th Rutherford County residents will vote on the following referendum:

Local sales and use tax at the rate of one-quarter percent (0.25%) in addition to all other State and local sales and use taxes.



FOR

Generates approximately \$1.2 million per year that will go toward the critical facility needs facing schools in Rutherford County



AGAINST

Additional funding to meet the critical facility needs facing schools in Rutherford County would be generated from other sources, including the property tax

How much is one-quarter percent (0.25%)?

Rutherford County's sales tax would increase from 6.75% to 7.0% on all purchases. However, residents and visitors will not pay it on unprepared food (groceries) or gas.

When will I begin paying the extra sales tax?

If approved, the increase would be collected beginning April 2017.

What will Rutherford County do with the approximate \$1.2 million a year?

The \$1.2 million will be spent on school facilities.

Doesn't the state provide funding for building construction?

No. School construction is a local responsibility.

Why can't we use lottery money for new schools?

The NC Education Lottery proceeds have been 22% less than originally projected and changes in the law in 2007 decreased these funds as well. Lottery funds alone will not be enough to bear the burden of school construction.

Who pays sales tax?

Everyone pays sales tax, including both Rutherford County residents and visitors. The increase in tourism to Rutherford County will allow for a larger percentage of these funds to come from visitors.

Q & A

What a 0.25%
Sales Tax Increase
Means
For **YOU**

\$4 = \$0.01
\$100 = \$0.25
\$500 = \$1.25
\$1,000 = \$2.50

A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS?

If you have questions or concerns, email: kim.aldridge@rutherfordcountync.gov



FREE Skin Cancer Screening

Skin Cancer is the fastest growing cancer in the United States – 1 in 5 Americans will develop some form of it during their lifetime, according to the American Cancer Society. But the good news is that skin cancer is the most preventable type of cancer. There are things you can do now to lower your risks.



RUTHERFORD REGIONAL
HEALTH SYSTEM

Cancer Resource Center



Saturday, October 22, 2016

9 am—12 pm

Cancer Resource Center
2270 Hwy 74A, Suite 343
Forest City, NC 28043

By Appointment Only.
Call 828-245-4596 to sign up.

Week of Caring October 15-22



Lend your hands to our annual effort
to help our neighbors in need

Rutherford County residents have come to expect the outpouring of care each fall we all know as the Week of Caring.

An expansion of National Make a Difference Day Oct. 22, the Week of Caring pairs volunteers with hands-on projects for community nonprofit agencies and senior adults. Skilled volunteers also are needed to provide urgent repairs for qualified low-income families. Coworkers, scout troops, school and church groups – even retired buddies – volunteer.

Requests are taken for all types of work projects – from building handicapped ramps to raking leaves.

Call 248-3431 to reserve your spot



I'd like to help

_____ Contact me with details on what I can do.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Mail to RHP, PO Box 1525, Rutherfordton, NC 28139

QUESTIONS? 828-248-3431

Follow us on Facebook @ Rutherford Housing Partnership Inc.



Rutherfordton Named 2016 Outstanding Small Town at the N.C. Rural Center

RUTHERFORDTON, N.C. (October 10, 2016): Rutherfordton, N.C. was named 2016 "Outstanding Small Town of the Year" by the N.C. Rural Center in response to the town's successful marketing and promotional efforts in 2015. With roughly 4,200 residents, Rutherfordton's marketing initiatives included development of "A Minted Original" town brand, billboard campaign, marketing collateral, trail guides, street banners, two new websites, and new downtown signage.

[Click here to watch a video of Rutherfordton, N.C.](#)

Rutherfordton also focused on outdoor and heritage initiatives including the installation of the Purple Martin Greenway, Downtown Historic Walking Trail, and the Gold Mile - a commemorative walking trail dedicated to Rutherfordton's legacy as the home of America's one-dollar gold coin and part of a 30 county NC Gold Trail. ([READ MORE](#))



Upcoming Events:

- Sunday, Oct 23 : [ROC Broad River Fall Leaf Float](#)
- Saturday, Nov 5: [ROC Race Series - South of the Mountains 5K Trail Run](#) To register for this event [click here](#).

Email us at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call (828) 625-9983 ext. 505 if you would like to sign up for any of the ROC workdays, clean-ups, or group hikes/river floats.

County Manager
Steve Garrison

County Commissioners

Bryan A. King, *Chairman* Alan Toney, *Vice Chairman*
Michael Benfield, Eddie Holland, Greg Lovelace

County Office

Hazel Haynes, *Clerk to Board*
Richard Williams, *County Attorney*

Follow us online!

www.rutherfordcountync.gov

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